

STATE OF MONTANA.  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.  
W. F. Cogswell, Secretary.

Helena, Montana, April 26, 1930.

INFANT AND MATERNAL DEATH RATES.

The following table will show the infant and maternal death rates in Montana since 1914:

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number of infant deaths.</u>	<u>Infant death rate per 1000 live births.</u>	<u>Number of maternal deaths.</u>	<u>Maternal death rate per 1000 live births.</u>
1914	834	83.7	100	10.0
1915	816	73.3	91	8.2
1916	970	85.8	108	9.6
1917	1090	94.0	143	12.3
1918	1027	87.0	184	15.5
1919	962	80.0	141	11.7
1920	862	72.7	104	8.8
1921	805	66.4	89	7.3
1922	763	69.0	86	7.8
1923	748	71.1	79	7.5
1924	683	66.4	67	6.5
1925	726	70.5	83	8.1
1926	757	75.6	79	7.9
1927	651	65.9	65	6.6
1928	619	61.5	78	7.7
1929	640	63.7	84	8.4

These figures will be of interest at this time since there is a controversy on as to the advisability of the re-enactment of the Sheppard-Towner Act, which has given federal aid to the States for the prevention of infant and maternal mortality.

Montana received federal aid under this Act from January, 1922 until June 30, 1929. Comparison of the infant and maternal death rates for the eight years preceding and the eight years during which this Act was in operation, shows the following:

The average infant death rate was 80.4 and the average maternal death rate was 10.4 preceding the Act; during the operation of the Act the average infant death rate was 68.0 and the average maternal death rate was 7.6. There was a decrease of 15.4% in the infant mortality and a decrease of 27.9% in the maternal mortality.

Cold figures cannot tell the whole story. We cannot give in figures the number of childhood defects that have been corrected, but the total is large. The correction of such defects has undoubtedly increased the comfort and health of the individuals and will prolong their lives.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER.

Up until April 26 there has been but one case of Rocky Mountain spotted fever reported, and that from Chouteau County. This is the first time that Rocky Mountain spotted fever has made its appearance in Chouteau County.

W. F. Cogswell,  
Secretary.

WFC/JB



